

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /099 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1570

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3860

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV, UN

SUBJ: HABITAT PREP COM

1. OPENING SESSION OF HABITAT PREP COM GOT OFF TO GOOD START. CANADIANS MADE LENGTHY AND FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT ON THEIR HOST RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIVITIES WHICH GENERATED NO QUESTIONS, ADVERSE COMMENT OR REFERENCES TO CRIME PREVENTION CONFERENCE. NO REPEAT NO REFERENCES MADE BY ANY DEL TO ISRAEL/SOUTH AFRICA EXCLUSION ISSUE. DISCUSSION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE REFERRED TO WORKING GROUP.

2. US DEL DISCOVERED UPON ARRIVAL THAT CANADIANS AND EC WERE MUCH CONCERNED BY THE US-PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RULE 51 IN THE RULES OF PROCEDURE WHICH PERTAINS TO NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. BOTH WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT US SUGGESTION MIGHT PROVOKE THE VERY KIND OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION THAT EVERYONE WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO AVOID. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH PENALOSA, IN WHICH WE EXPRESSED OUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT RULE 51, HE SAID THAT AUTHORITY FOR ISSUING INVITATIONS TO CONFERENCE RESTED WITH THE UNGA WHICH WAS THE CONVENOR OF THE CONFERENCE.

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3. PER MOREY-SCHIFF TELCON, WE LATER ASKED PENALOSA TO

MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT ALONG LINES OF HIS PRIVATE STATEMENT TO US. IN INTRODUCING DISCUSSION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE, HE MADE GENERAL OBSERVATION THAT THE PREP COM WOULD SUBMIT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON RULES OF PROCEDURE AND THE STRUCTURE AND AGENDA OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE FOR DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL BY THE UNGA. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE SAME PROCEDURE APPLIED WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF INVITATIONS AND THAT THE UNGA, AS CONVENOR OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE, HAD TO TAKE FINAL DECISIONS ON THIS QUESTION.

4. CANADIANS INFORMED US ON TUESDAY THAT, VIA SYG, THEY LEARNED THAT IRAQIS HAD THREATENED TO RAISE HELL IF RULE 51 TAMPERED WITH (IRAQI DEL NOT PRESENT FOR FIRST DAY'S DISCUSSION).

5. WE SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED RAPPORTEUR TO BE SURE TO INCLUDE SYG'S STATEMENT IN COMMITTEE REPORT. WE PLAN NO FURTHER EFFORTS TO GET MODIFICATIONS TO REMAINING PART OF RULE 51.

6. IN DISCUSSION OF RULES OF PROCEDURES, A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER DIFFERENCES THEY HAD PERCEIVED BETWEEN THE DRAFT PREPARED FOR THE PREP COM AND THOSE AGREED BY ECOSOC. A 5-COUNTRY WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED (AUSTRALIA WILL REPRESENT WEO COUNTRIES) AND OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING U.S., ARE SITTING IN AS OBSERVERS. WORKING GROUP UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLETE ITS WORK BY WEDNESDAY MID-DAY.

7. FOLLOWING IS RELEVANT PART OF CANADIAN STATEMENT:

QUOTE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE KNOW OF THE COMMITMENT CANADA HAS HAD TO THE HABITAT CONFERENCE FROM ITS BEGINNING IN STOCKHOLM AND OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT IT ATTACHES TO ITS ROLE AS HOST. I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT, AS THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA HAS HIMSELF MADE CLEAR, THIS COMMITMENT HAS NOT CHANGED.

QUOTE DELEGATES WILL KNOW THAT WE HAVE RECENTLY HAD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THIS MATTER IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED
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WITH HIM CONCERNING CANADA'S ROLE AS HOST OF HABITAT. THE CANADIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE HONOURABLE MR. MACEACHEN, RE-ASSURED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL LAST WEEK BY TELEGRAM THAT THERE IS NO CHANGE IN CANADA'S LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO HOST THE HABITAT CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER IN 1976. ON THE QUESTION OF THE BASIS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE, MR. MACEACHEN INFORMED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, AND I

HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO REASSURE THIS COMMITTEE, THAT CANADA WILL HOST THE HABITAT CONFERENCE UNDER THE RULES THAT NORMALLY APPLY TO UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES.

QUOTE IN THIS CONNECTION, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD ADD THAT THE HOSTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND CANADA IS WELL ADVANCED, AND IT IS OUR HOPE THAT IT WILL BE SIGNED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

QUOTE MR. CHAIRMAN, WITH THESE CLEAR ASSURANCES AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE THOROUGH REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON RECENT AND PLANNED PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES, WE CAN PROCEED CONFIDENTLY ON OUR WAY TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE AT VANCOUVER IN JUNE 1976. END QUOTE.

8. PREP COM SCHEDULE CALLS FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AND AGENDA THROUGH THURSDAY AND ADOPTION OF A REPORT ON FRIDAY MORNING, END MOYNIHAN

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